

Medical Radiation and Possible Adverse Effects  
on the Human Embryo

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Dr. Joshua Lederberg, President  
Rockefeller University  
1230 York Avenue  
New York, NY 10021

Dear Dr. Lederberg:

A few weeks ago I came across the foreword which you wrote in 1971 for the book by Epstein and Legator on "Mutagenicity of Pesticides." Especially interesting was your comment: "If the malformation induced by thalidomide were a mental retardation of 10% of the I.Q., instead of a highly characteristic and unusual deformation of the limbs, in an equal number of subjects, we would be unaware of it to this day."

I am enclosing a reprint of an article I published last year whose central thesis bears on the same idea. I would like very much to have an opportunity to discuss this subject with you when you are on our campus for a visit in late February, and if you have the time to look over this reprint, I would appreciate any criticisms or comments you might have on it. Much more attention needs to be given to the problem of low level environmental chemical exposure (including medical pharmaceuticals) and "subtle" teratogenesis in the human. It is a fascinating subject, especially the possible involvement of the central nervous system; I am currently in the process of trying to formulate some good experimental questions with which to approach the subject.

I have asked Dean Neaves' office to include, if possible, my laboratory on your schedule while you are in Dallas, and I hope that we can look forward to talking with you.

Sincerely,

Mary Esther Gaulden, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor and Chief,  
Radiation Biology Section